CLAIMS:

1. A device for treating a patient having a severe peripheral bacterial infection comprising an extracorporeal adsorption container having an inlet means and an outlet means for circulating blood in a whole or separated form; a solid support disposed and confined within the container; and a binding means associated with the solid support that is specific for affixing an infecting bacterium that is causing the severe peripheral bacterial infection, thereby allowing for the removal of at least a portion of the infecting bacterium and the return of the treated blood to the patient.

2. The device of Claim 1 wherein the solid support has a surface area to volume ratio of at least about 4 to 1.

3. The device of Claim 1 wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of coated beads, hollow fibers, or membranes.

4. The device of Claim 1 wherein the binding means is present on the solid support in an amount sufficient to remove at least 1mg of infecting bacteria.

5. The device of Claim 1 wherein the binding means is adsorbed or bonded to the solid support.

6. The device of Claim 1 wherein the binding means comprises immunoadsorbents.

7. The device of Claim 1 wherein the immunoadsorbents are monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies.

8. The device of Claim 1 wherein the infecting microbe is a *bacillus*, *meningococcus*, *streptococcus*, *staphylococcus*, or *paratuberculosis* species.

9. A device for treating a patient having a severe peripheral bacterial infection comprising an extracorporeal adsorption container having an inlet means and an outlet means for circulating

blood in a whole or separated form; a solid support disposed and confined within the container; and a binding means associated with the solid support that is specific for affixing a toxin released from an infecting bacterium that is causing the severe peripheral bacterial infection, thereby allowing for the removal of at least a portion of the toxin and the return of the treated blood to the patient.

10. The device of Claim 9 wherein the solid support has a surface area to volume ratio of at least about 4 to 1.

11. The device of Claim 9 wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of coated beads, hollow fibers, or membranes.

12. The device of Claim 9 wherein the binding means is present on the solid support in an amount sufficient to remove at least 1ug of toxin.

13. The device of Claim 9 wherein the binding means is adsorbed or bonded to the solid support.

14. The device of Claim 9 wherein the binding means comprises immunoadsorbents.

15. The device of Claim 14 wherein the immunoadsorbents are monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies.

16. The device of Claim 9 wherein the toxin comes from an infecting microbe that is a *bacillus*, *meningococcus,streptococcus*, *staphylococcus*, or *paratuberculosis* species.

17. The device of claim 1 also comprising the binding means of Claim 9.

18. A method for treating a patient having a severe peripheral bacterial infection comprising connecting the patient's peripheral system to an extracorporeal adsorption container having an inlet means and an outlet means for circulating blood in a whole or separated form; a solid support disposed and confined within the container; and a binding means associated with the

solid support that is specific for affixing an infecting bacterium that is causing the severe peripheral bacterial infection; circulating the patient's blood through the container, thereby cleansing the blood by removing at least a portion of the infecting bacterium; and returning the treated blood to the patient

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the blood is treated until the bacterial load has been reduced to a level such that the use of an antibiotic does not put the patient at a significant risk of induced bacteremia or septicemia.

20. The method of Claim 18 also comprising using a pump means to circulate the blood through the extracorporeal container.

21. The method of Claim 18 in which the blood is monitor for the reduction in the level of bacteria after treatment.

22. The method of Claim 18 wherein any antibiotic treatment of the patient is curtailed until the infecting bacterial load has been lowered to an acceptable risk level.

23. The method of Claim 18 wherein the infecting microbe is a *bacillus*, *meningococcus, streptococcus*, *staphylococcus*, or *paratuberculosis* species.

24. A method for treating a patient having a severe peripheral bacterial infection comprising connecting the patient's peripheral system to an extracorporeal adsorption container having an inlet means and an outlet means for circulating blood in a whole or separated form; a solid support disposed and confined within the container; and a binding means associated with the solid support that is specific for affixing an infecting bacterium that is causing the severe peripheral bacterial infection; circulating the patient's blood through the container, thereby cleansing the blood by removing at least a portion of the infecting bacterium; and returning the treated blood to the patient

25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the blood is treated until the toxin load has been reduced to a level such that the use of an antibiotic does not put the patient at a significant risk of induced bacteremia or septicemia.

26. The method of Claim 24 also comprising a means for pumping the blood through the extracorporeal container.

27. The method of Claim 24 in which the blood is monitor for the reduction in the level of toxin after treatment.

28. The method of Claim 24 wherein any antibiotic treatment of the patient is curtailed until the toxin load has been lowered to an acceptable risk level.

29. The method of Claim 24 wherein the toxin comes from an infecting microbe that is a *bacillus*, *meningococcus,streptococcus*, *staphylococcus*, or *paratuberculosis* species.

30. The method of claim 18 also comprising treating for toxins as in the method of Claim 24.